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*Attorneys for Defendant Brendan J. Stangis*

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

DIGITAL LICENSING INC. (d/b/a “DEBT Box”), a Wyoming corporation; JASON R. ANDERSON, an individual; JACOB S. ANDERSON, an individual; SCHAD E. BRANNON, an individual; ROYDON B. NELSON, an individual; JAMES E. FRANKLIN, an individual; WESTERN OIL EXPLORATION COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation; RYAN BOWEN, an individual; IX GLOBAL, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; JOSEPH A. MARTINEZ, an individual; BENJAMIN F. DANIELS, an individual; MARK W. SCHULER, an individual; B & B INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC (d/b/a “CORE 1 CRYPTO”), a Utah limited liability company; TRAVIS A. FLAHERTY, an individual; ALTON O. PARKER, an individual; BW HOLDINGS, LLC (d/b/a the “FAIR PROJECT”), a Utah

**DECLARATION OF ATTORNEYS  
FEES AND COSTS FOR  
DEFENDANT BRENDAN J.  
STANGIS**

Case No. 2:23-cv-00482-RJS

Chief Judge Robert J. Shelby

limited liability company; BRENDAN J. STANGIS, an individual; and MATTHEW D. FRITZSCHE, an individual,

Defendants,

ARCHER DRILLING, LLC, a Wyoming limited liability company; BUSINESS FUNDING SOLUTIONS, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; BLOX LENDING, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; CALMFRITZ HOLDING, LLC, a Utah limited liability company; CALMES & CO, INC., a Utah corporation; FLAHERTY ENTERPRISES, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company; IX VENTURES FZCO, a United Arab Emirates company; PURDY OIL, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company; THE GOLD COLLECTIVE LLC, a Utah limited liability company; and UIU HOLDINGS, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company,

Relief Defendants.

STATE OF UTAH                    )  
  ) ss.  
County of Salt Lake            )

Brent R. Baker, being first duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

1. I am a resident of Salt Lake County, State of Utah. I am over the age of eighteen years and have personal knowledge regarding the matters stated herein.
2. The information contained herein is true to the best of my own personal knowledge, except as to those matters stated upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.
3. I am an attorney of record for Defendant Brendan J. Stangis (“Stangis”) in this matter. My billing rate is \$590.00 per hour.

4. I have been admitted to practice law in Utah since 1988. My legal practice focuses on securities enforcement and compliance. Prior to joining Buchalter, I worked at the SEC for thirteen years as senior counsel. I also worked at Parsons Behle & Latimer, for about ten years and I was a Commissioner on the Utah Securities Commission for two terms. I am familiar with the hourly rates charged by attorneys in this area who have similar experience and expertise. My rates are comparable.

5. The amount of fees and times expended by counsel for Stangis in the above-captioned matter are reasonable given the complexity of the legal issues, the experience of counsel, and the amount of work required to be performed in response to the improvidently requested *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order and Expedited Discovery.

6. To date, Stangis has incurred legal fees in the amount of \$42,839.50 related to the improvidently requested *Ex Parte* Temporary Restraining Order. A reasonable description of the work performed is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**DATED:** April 17, 2024

/s/ Brent R. Baker

Brent R. Baker

Subscribed, sworn to, and acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2024, by Brent R. Baker, the signer of the above instrument, who duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to FRCP 5(b), I hereby certify that I am an employee of Buchalter, PC, and that on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, I filed a true and correct copy of the foregoing document, DECLARATION OF ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS FOR DEFENDANT BRENDAN J. STANGIS, with the Clerk of the Court through the CM/ECF system which sent electronic notification and service to all counsel of record.

/s/ Brent R. Baker

Employee of Buchalter, PC

# Exhibit A

**Attorneys Fees and Legal Costs for Defendant Brendan J. Stangis**

<b>Date</b>	<b>User</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Amount</b>
8.07.2023	Brent R. Baker	Emails/calls with SEC and client.	1.20	708.00
8.08.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review deadlines associated with the ex-parte Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) obtained by the SEC; legal research regarding same.	1.50	885.00
8.09.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review docket; call with SEC regarding status; call with R. Marshall.	1.80	1062.00
8.10.2023	Brent R. Baker	Strategy meeting with B. Baker regarding matter; review of Complaint; review of motion for TRO and begin review of attached exhibits and declaration; review of orders with the Court and potential deadlines; telephonic conference with co-defendants' legal counsel regarding status.	3.80	1539.00
8.10.2023	Brent R. Baker	Continued revising Statement of Financial Condition (SOFC) in compliance with the TRO's expedited discovery.	1.80	1062.00
8.11.2023	Brent R. Baker	Drafting/revising Statement of Financial Condition in compliance with the TRO's expedited discovery.	2.10	1239.00
8.11.2023	Brent R. Baker	Legal research regarding SEC's authority to obtain an asset freeze based on non-fraud charges.	1.60	944.00
8.13.2023	Brent R. Baker	Status and update call with client.	1.40	826.00
8.14.2023	Brent R. Baker	Finalizing SOFC; preparation for attorney proffer.	2.90	1711.00
8.14.2023	Brent R. Baker	Call with B. Curtis regarding facts.	0.50	295.00
8.15.2023	Brent R. Baker	Prepare for, and conduct, attorney proffer.	7.10	4189.00
8.16.2023	Brent R. Baker	Call with lawyers for co-defendants.	0.90	531.00
8.17.2023	Brent R. Baker	JDA call with R. Marshall.	1.10	649.00
8.21.2023	Brent R. Baker	Reviewing pleadings and checking for docket updates; preparing SOFC for production as expedited discovery.	2.30	1357.00
8.30.2023	Brent R. Baker	Emails and calls with J. Toth and M. Wyndham pursuant to JDA; call with C. Fronk (SEC); obtain and review hearing transcript.	2.50	1475.00
8.31.2023	Brent R. Baker	Prepare for, and conduct conference call with SEC regarding asset freeze issues and status; email with client regarding same.	2.90	1711.00
9.01.2023	Brent R. Baker	Drafting notes of conversation with SEC.	1.60	944.00
9.13.2023	Brent R. Baker	Call regarding possibility of selling the house.	0.90	531.00

9.14.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review Motion to Dissolve the TRO and Motion for Contempt of Order Freezing Assets.	2.30	1357.00
9.15.2023	Brent R. Baker	Prepare for, and appear at, initial pre-trial conference with Judge Shelby.	3.10	1829.00
9.16.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review docket and relevant pleadings.	1.00	590.00
9.18.2023	Brent R. Baker	Hearing regarding outstanding discovery and motions.	0.50	177.50
10.04.2023	Brent R. Baker	Call with client regarding asset freeze and nature of conditions imposed while TRO is pending.	1.70	1003.00
10.06.2023	Brent R. Baker	Prepare for, and participate in hearing on motions to dissolve TRO, asset freeze and receivership.	7.00	4130.00
10.11.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review transcript of hearing; continued document review/SEC initial disclosures.	5.30	3127.00
10.16.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review status report from Receiver regarding transition planning and issues in dissolving receivership.	2.00	1180.00
10.17.2023	Brent R. Baker	Respond to client emails and texts regarding dissolution of TRO and impact on his assets.	3.70	2183.00
10.23.2023	Brent R. Baker	Call with client regarding next steps including client's banking relationships.	0.70	413.00
10.25.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review case cited by SEC issued by Honorable Bruce S. Jenkins in a pending Utah Crypto case.	1.10	649.00
11.30.2023	Brent R. Baker	Review Judge Shelby's Memorandum Decision and Order to Show Cause regarding sanctioning the SEC.	4.00	2360.00
11.30.2023	Brent R. Baker	Discuss status of TRO and Order to Show Cause.	3.70	2183.00

**Total Labor for Def. Brendan Stangis**

**74.00 \$ 42,839.50**